status of Mr. Ramachandra Row was specially deputed to inquire into the question elaborately, there were several important matters on which it was not possible for Mr. Ramachandra Row himself to express a decided opinion. The question of landed properties of each Devaswom was one on which there had been a wide divergence of views even among officials. Again, the want of a policy for Government in regard to the Devaswoms was another vital point. Was Government an owner or trustee of the Devaswom properties ? That question was still undecided. The financial aspect of Devaswom administration was again a moot point. Has Government been a loser or gainer after it took up the management of the Devaswoms? Has Government been spending money from its general revenue towards the maintenance and up-keep of the temples, as contended by some ? Or has the Government been a gainer, as held by others? The last point for consideration was the efficient and satisfactory management of the Devaswoms. Was it not the duty of the Hindu Government to maintain intact the Hindu institution of the Devaswom Department, just like the Ecclesiastical (Christian) Department of the British Indian (Christian) Government ? If that was the duty of the Hindu Government of Travancore, how could that be carried out ? Would it not be better to take away the management of Devaswoms from the Land Revenue Department and place it under a separate head ? To consider those and other allied matters a Committee of officials and non-officials should be appointed and their report should be published for public criticisms, and further action taken in the light of the views and criticisms on the Committee's report.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

138. Desirability of establishing in every taluk Poor Houses for the helpless and, if that is not feasible, the establishment of one such house in each Division for the time being and the opening of more in course of time.

Mr. Ousep Avira Tharakan (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government for granting a dispensary at Thycattussery and observed that the number of poor and utterly destitute people who, on account of their blindness, lameness, disease, deformity or other causes, could not earn a living and were homeless, was increasing. The only protection for such a miserable section of humanity was either the shade of a tree or road-side where, as it often happened, they died. As they constituted a large percentage of the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja, they were entitled to the protection of Government. In view of the large number of such destitute people everywhere in the State, the Member submitted that a Poor House should be opened in each taluk under the supervision of the Tahsildar or the President of the local T. I. C., as the case may be. If that was not possible, then one Poor House for each division should at least be opened. If Government could not run such institutions from public funds, liberal grants might be given to those who might establish them. The Member said that he was himself prepared to open one such institution in his taluk, if Government would give a liberal grant.

Dewan's reply.—I would not promise the award of grants now; but Government will be prepared to render all reasonable facilities to private gentlemen or bodies who come forward to open and maintain Poor Houses.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS.

139. Necessity for a Central Research Laboratory for Travancore.

Mr. T. K. Madhavan (Member, Nominated) said that the Indian Industrial Commission had impressed on the attention of the Government of India that it was the duty of the State to conduct scientific researches and to investigate the potentialities and possibilities of the natural resources of the country. That observation applied with equal force to Travancore which was rich in its natural resources. At the same time it must be said that nothing substantial had been done to develop the existing resources. There were very good prospects of research work being carried on by the Departments of Agriculture, Forest, Geology and the Museum and Public Gardens, if sufficient facilities were allowed to them. The recently sanctioned Bacteriological Laboratory attached to the General Hospital would no doubt be a very useful institution. It was well known that there were some diseases peculiar to Travancore such as

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elephantiasis, an enquiry into which would yield very useful and scientific data. Again, it was the opinion of competent authorities that tuberculosis was very common in the town. If an endeavour was made to go into the conditions and surroundings under which diseases like the tuberculosis and elephantiasis throve, possibly remedial measures could be found out to stop their spread and even to extirpate them altogether. The forests had imbedded in them quite a wealth of economic products and if sufficient scientific attention was given to their development, the country would be the better and richer. The Agricultural Department too could be made to turn out better and more useful results. There was, no doubt, a laboratory attached to the office of the Director. But the work done was not commensurate with the demand or the maximum benefit expected to accrue from it, because the necessary conveniences were not given to the department for research work on any desirable scale. The country was undoubtedly grateful to Government for the liberal provision made in the current year's budget, but what was important was that the amount should be fully utilised for the purposes intended. The Member read an extract from an article in the *Modern Review* describing the nature of the scientific work in research carried on in America and urged similar steps being taken in Travancore also. In regard to the Geological Department also, the information of the Member was that a good deal more could be done, if the State Geologist had been placed in a better position in respect of his laboratory and other equipments. If, with a view to carry on research work of the kind indicated above, a Central Laboratory were instituted, the economic salvation of the country could be assured. Perhaps a sum ranging between Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 60,000 would be enough to start a Laboratory, if it could be attached to the College Laboratory.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

140. Extension of the Railway to South Travancore.

Mr. Ramasuppu Sivathanu Chettiar (Member, Trading Classes, Kottar) prayed for the extension of the railway to Aramboli frontier and submitted that, as the Trivandrum-Quilon line was paying, the line proposed by him would be equally profitable. It was highly necessary in view to develop trade and agriculture.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

141. Suggestions for increasing the benefits derived from the railway extension to Trivandrum.

Mr. S. Ganapathi Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum) explained the difficulties and hardships the people were put to on account of the present railway station being situated at Chakay and said that the bandy hire paid by passengers to get to the station from different parts of the town was itself unbearable. He requested that the line might be extended as far as Karamanai or Chalai, so as to bring the heart of the town under the benefits of the railway. He also complained of the difficulties in securing tickets from the Trivandrum station.

Dewan's reply.—The Government are in communication with the Railway authorities on the subject of affording increased facilities to passengers. The other points are noted.

142. Extension of the Trivandrum—Quilon Railway to Alwaye.

Mr. K. K. Thomas B. A. & B. L. (Member, Nominated) said that the subject of his representation affected all classes of His Highness' subjects. When a few years ago the matter was mooted, it was considered premature and it was thought desirable to await the working of the Trivandrum-Quilon line which was then in course of construction. Now that that line had become a successful one, the time had come for further consideration of the subject. It was not necessary to enumerate the advantages of railway communications in Travancore. The physical configuration of the country, its progress and enlightenment, the growth of civic activities such as newspapers, printing houses, the growth of popular institutions, increase of trade and commerce and development of agriculture were among other factors contributory to the well ordered progress of the State. The contact of the people with Cochin and other parts of British India on the west coast was becoming closer on account of the

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